



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **INDEPENDENCE WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ROLE IN METH CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

**Ellen Nicole Wagner**, 20, of Independence, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Robert Larsen this morning.

By pleading guilty, **Wagner** admitted that she conspired with others to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine between Feb. 1, 2002, and June 3, 2002. Specifically, **Wagner** admitted to assisting in the manufacture of approximately 15 grams of pure methamphetamine by cutting match sticks and providing pseudoephedrine to meth cooks.

**Wagner** is the second co-defendant to be convicted in this methamphetamine conspiracy.

On Aug. 4, 2004, **Donald R. Swank**, 36, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy. By pleading guilty, **Swank** admitted that he, too, conspired to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine between Feb. 1, 2002, and June 3, 2002.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, the co-defendants are subject to not less than five years in federal prison without parole up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus fines of up to \$2 million. Their sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigations by the United States Probation Office.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David DeTar Newbert. It was investigated by the Kansas City Metro Meth Task Force.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)